

## GREAT COLLECTORS: EUGENE FITZALAN

Reproduced from the "Australian National Herbarium's Biographical Notes" Series, . Born in Londonderry, Ireland, on 12 July 1830, died in South Brisbane, Queensland, on 22 June 1911.

A trained gardener and nurseryman, Fitzalan came to Victoria in 1849, moving to Queensland in 1859. He was botanical collector on Lieutenant J.W. Smith's 1860 expedition to the north-eastern coast, which resulted in the establishment of Bowen. Fitzalan collected 130 specimens on this expedition. He later settled at Bowen, moving to Cairns in 1887, where he was first caretaker of the Botanic Gardens. He sent material to Mueller over many years, and many of his collections are cited by Bentham. His herbarium is in MEL.

His work is commemorated in the name of the Fitzalan Gardens at Cairns Botanic Gardens, and in several eponymous north Queensland plant species:

- *Macropteranthus fitzalanii*
- *Atractocarpus fitzalanii* (pictured above)
- *Eria fitzalanii*
- *Musa fitzalanii*
- *Psychotria fitzalanii*



The following plants have been selected for Eugene Fitzalan's commemorative garden bed (subject to availability of course):

### *Syzygium cryptophlebium*

- Myrtaceae. Collected Cairns, 1877,

### *Jasminum simplicifolium* subsp. *australiense*

- Oleaceae. Common name = "Jasmine". Collected Cairns, 1877,

### *Deplanchea tetraphylla* -

- Bignoniaceae. Common name = "Wallaby wireless" or "Golden bouquet". Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Polyscias elegans*

- Araliaceae. Common name = "Celery wood" or "Black Pencil Cedar". Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Orthosiphon aristatus*

- Lamiaceae. Common name = "Cats' Whisker" or "Java Tea". Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Micromelum minutum*

- Rutaceae. Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Delarbrea michieana*

- Myodocarpaceae. Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Psilotum complanatum*

- Psilotaceae. Common name = "Flat Fork Fern". Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Vandasina retusa*

- Fabaceae. Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Melastoma malabathricum* subsp. *malabathricum*

- Melastomataceae. Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Coronidium rupicola*

- Asteraceae. Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Cordyline canniifolia*

- Asparagaceae. Collected Cairns, 1877.

### *Callitris macleayana*

- Cupressaceae. Common name = "Brush Cypress". Collected Cairns, 1897.

### *Phyllanthus lamprophyllus*

- Phyllanthaceae. Collected Davies Creek Falls, 30 November 1876.

### *Sterculia quadrifida*

- Malvaceae. Common name = "Peanut tree". Collected Trinity Bay, 1882

### *Vitex trifolia* var. *trifolia*

- Lamiaceae. Collected Trinity Bay, 1882.

### *Potbos longipes*

- Araceae. Collected Trinity Bay, 1882.

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# Cultivating Native Cordylines

Abridged from an article by Russell Young  
www.sgapqld.org.au/articles/article45.html.

The word *Cordyline* comes from the Greek 'kordyle', meaning a club, referring to the club-like roots of some species.

Robert Brown (1810) is credited with naming these plants "*Cordyline*". The name was accepted officially by the International Botanical Congress in Vienna in 1905. The "American Code" stayed with "*Taetsia*", as did many botanists until 1930, when botanists world-wide

accepted the name "*Cordyline*".

Cordylines were previously in the lily family (Liliaceae), but now are placed officially in the Asparagaceae family. These species have leaves arranged spirally around the stem, usually in pairs.

There are fifteen named species to date, with other possible species under investigation. They range from large tree-like plants down to small shrubs, and one is an epiphyte. Eight species occur naturally in Australia. These are:

- *C. cannifolia*
- *C. congesta* - listed as

rare

- *C. fruticosa* - not in cultivation
- *C. manners-suttoniae*
- *C. murchisoniae*
- *C. petiolaris*
- *C. rubra*
- *C. stricta*.

Although these are mainly all green foliaged plants, some highly prized variegated forms have been found of *C. rubra* (several), *C. petiolaris* (several), *C. manners-suttoniae* (one), *C. murchisoniae* (one) and *C. stricta* (one).

Propagation is very easy with *Cordylines* and can be done using one of four different methods:

- from the tops of plants
- from stem cuttings
- from tuber cuttings
- from seed.

Generally, Australian native *Cordylines* grown from seed take an average of three years to reach flowering stage. Fruits are ready to harvest when they are soft and red, orange or black in colour, depending on the species. Sow the small black seeds just below the soil in a pot and keep moist in a shaded area until germinated. Times vary depending on species, but most will take only a month if weather is warm. Seedlings should be transplanted into individual small pots after about five months. Using just about any fertilizer at normal strength should give good results.

Two name changes from the ATH this month, both the result of using DNA and geography to unravel relationships. Firstly, the familiar *Leea indica* (bandicoot berry) is now better assigned to *Leea novoguineense*. *Leea indica* was first recognized in India in 1768. Since then, any *Leea* with white petals has been called *Leea indica*, even if it was half a hemisphere away. DNA analyses and some detailed morphological comparisons revealed the Australian plants to be significantly different from the Indian ones – they are now best called *Leea novoguineense*. There is no change to the beautiful red-flowered *Leea rubra*.

One of the most exciting pictures to be revealed by the new science of DNA sequencing is the relationships between related groups of plants and their geography. The geologists have taught us about the slow dance of the continents over geological time, but it has been the biologists who have revealed how this has affected life on Earth. A recent example of this was a study of *Maytenus*, a pantropical genus of trees and shrubs. DNA studies found that, strictly, *Maytenus* only occurred in the Americas. Australian species are best grouped with *Denhamia*. So, we should now get used to *Denhamia cunninghamii*, *Denhamia bilocularis* and *Denhamia fasciculiflora*!



1 *Cordyline manners-suttoniae* in cultivation.

# A day on Mt Emerald

On 18 April, a small group gathered for an assault on Mt Emerald, behind Atherton. The mountain is steep, but along the way are some attractive and unusual wildflowers to provide an excuse to stop, rest and admire. Here are a selection.



*Xerochrysum bracteatum*



*Coronidium newcastlianum*



*Melaleuca recurva* or *Callistemon recurvus*



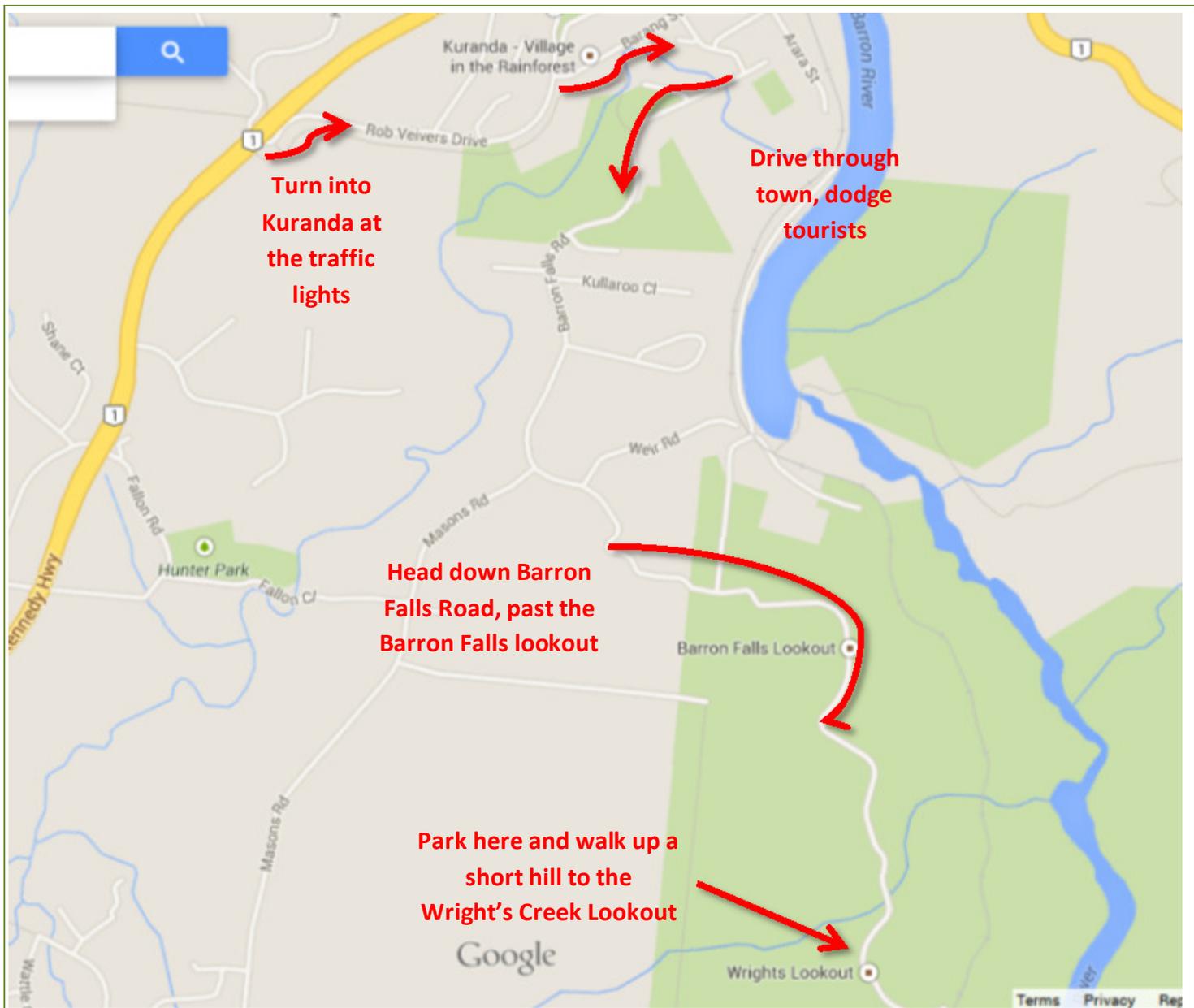
View from the top, looking south.



*Banksia aquilonia*



*Astroloma* sp. Baal Gammon (B.P.Hyland 10341)



## SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH – JUNE EXCURSION.

### DIRECTIONS TO WRIGHT'S LOOKOUT, KURANDA

1. IF APPROACHING FROM CAIRNS, HEAD UP THE KURANDA RANGE ROAD, TURN LEFT INTO KURANDA AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS
2. TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT TURN INTO BARANG STREET, JUST BEFORE THE BP
3. TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT, THEN THE NEXT RIGHT (FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO BARRON FALLS)
4. FOLLOW THE ROAD PAST THE TURNOFF BARRON FALLS LOOKOUT. KEEP GOING TO THE END OF THE SEALED ROAD.
5. PARK AND WALK UP THE HILL TO THE LOOKOUT. BE THERE AT 12 NOON.



# Upcoming Events

## CAIRNS SGAP

### MEETING AND EXCURSION: Wright's Lookout, Kuranda

12 noon. See map on previous page. The walk from Wright's Lookout takes us through rainforest, Eucalypt forest, then down into a shaded fern gully for lunch.

Bring lunch, water and some comfortable shoes. The track is good but steep in parts.

## TABLELANDS SGAP

### MEETING: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday 25 June at the CWA Hall, Tolga.

Guest Speaker: Matt Bradford of CSIRO. He will be talking about "Rapid recovery of rainforest fruit production following cyclone Larry".

### EXCURSION: 10 am, Sunday 29 June.

This month's excursion is to the Torpedo Bay walk at Lake Tinaroo. Meet at the dam lookout (southern side of dam wall, Tinaroo township) for 10 a.m. departure.

Any queries, please contact Chris Jaminon on 4091 4565 or email [hjaminon@bigpond.com](mailto:hjaminon@bigpond.com)

## TOWNSVILLE SGAP

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre at 8pm, and holds excursions the following Sunday.

See [www.sgaptownsville.org.au/](http://www.sgaptownsville.org.au/) for more information.

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

### SGAP CAIRNS 2013 COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Rob Jago
Vice-chairperson	Pauline Lawie
Treasurer	Stuart Worboys
Secretary	Boyd Lenne
Newsletter	Stuart Worboys
Webmaster	Tony Roberts



[www.sgapcairns.org.au](http://www.sgapcairns.org.au)